



STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
LT. GOVERNOR

June 21, 2019

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
Senate President
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones
Speaker of the House
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Ms. Laura Mears
Chairman, Maryland Historical Trust
Board of Trustees
100 Community Place, 3rd Floor
Crownsville, MD 21032

Dear State House Trust Members:

The Maryland State House, the oldest still in continuous legislative use, is a treasured part of our state and our country's history. We come here every day to do the work of democracy, a privilege that was hard won by generations of men and women. The State House Trust is charged with ensuring that we properly commemorate this heritage.

As the Speaker noted in her letter to the Trust, the Maryland State Flag is a symbol of reconciliation and signifies the rebuilding of a once divided state. The Confederate Battle Flag itself is a divisive symbol and has no place in this or any state house.

Therefore, it is my recommendation that the "Maryland Remembers" plaque be updated by replacing the Confederate Flag with the Maryland State Flag, while still acknowledging the sacrifices Marylanders made during the Civil War.

We cannot erase our history, nor should we. It is important that we remember, and teach future generations, that ours was a divided state. The first casualties of the Civil War were in Baltimore, and Maryland is home to some of the conflict's bloodiest battlefields. It is undoubtedly a painful and complicated chapter, but it is one we work to overcome every day by striving to live up to our founding ideals.

We have an obligation to represent our history appropriately. That memory helps us all appreciate the progress that we have made in the years since, and our continued work towards a more perfect union.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boyd K. Rutherford".

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

cc: Elaine Bachmann, Maryland State Archives